

Developing beneficial uses for produced water could reduce the costs of oil and gas development, while also easing demand for water—especially in the West—by alleviating drought conditions and providing water for agriculture, industry, and other uses. Energy and water are two of our most important resources—so it makes sense to pursue ways to produce more of both. I believe my bill is a step in this direction.

Here is a brief outline of the bill's provisions:

Section One—provides a short title ("More Water and Energy Act of 2006"), sets forth findings, and states the bill's purpose, "to facilitate the use of produced water for irrigation and other purposes and to demonstrate ways to accomplish that result."

Section Two—provides definitions of key terms used in the legislation.

Section Three—authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Geological Survey, to conduct a study to identify the technical, economic, environmental, legal, and other obstacles to increasing the use of produced water for irrigation and other purposes and the legislative, administrative, and other actions that could reduce or eliminate these obstacles. The study is to be done in consultation with the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and appropriate Governors and local officials, and the Interior Department will be required to seek the advice of experts and comments and suggestions from the public. Results of the study are to be reported to Congress within a year after enactment of the legislation.

Section Four—authorizes and directs (subject to the availability of appropriated funds) the Interior Department to award grants to assist in developing facilities to demonstrate the feasibility, effectiveness, and safety of processes to increase the use of produced water for irrigation, municipal or industrial uses, or for other purposes. No more than one such project is to be in a State of the Upper Basin of the Colorado River (i.e. Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, or Wyoming), no more than one is to be in either Arizona or Nevada, and no more than one is to be in California. Grants are to be for a maximum of \$1 million, and can pay for no more than half the cost of any project. Grants cannot be used for operation or maintenance of a project.

Section Five—authorizes appropriations to implement the legislation, including up to \$5 million for grants authorized by section 4.

THE BUDGET THAT HURTS WOMEN

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, women live longer and have more health problems associated with aging. They also tend to have less retirement income, which affects their ability to deal with rising health and energy costs. As a result of these factors, the cuts proposed by this budget will affect women especially hard.

This budget would cut Federal healthcare programs aimed at those who need them the most. The burden for covering those who would otherwise be uninsured would be pushed to State and local governments who simply do not have the resources to provide adequate healthcare coverage.

The proposed budget cuts Medicaid spending by \$17.2 billion over the next 5 years,

through shifting costs to beneficiaries and to State governments as well as cutting payments to healthcare providers.

This budget will force those who rely on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to accept cuts in benefits or require State and local governments to raise taxes to pay for these new responsibilities.

Medicaid is the vehicle for seniors to pay for long-term care and I fear that these proposed cuts will force many nursing homes and other facilities out of business because of their reliance on Medicaid reimbursements.

Long Island has already seen hospitals close their doors because of cuts in Medicaid reimbursements. We cannot afford to have nursing homes suffer the same fate.

The budget also proposes cutting the Medicaid reimbursements for generic drugs by \$1.3 billion, school-based services by \$3.6 billion, and funding for the disabled by \$1.2 billion.

I am committed to fighting these cuts. This budget places the burden for the Federal Government's fiscal irresponsibility on our children, seniors, and the disabled. I will work with my colleagues to restore funding to these critical healthcare programs.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WILLING THE 2006 NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recount a story of hard work and dedication, a story of perseverance in the face of daunting odds, a story of achieving what once seemed impossible. In short, Mr. Speaker, I want to recount a story of how the University of Maryland Women's Basketball Team defied all expectations to claim the 2006 NCAA Basketball championship. Go Terps!

Mr. Speaker, this is a David and Goliath story. Duke has performed well in the NCAA tournament, having reached the Final Four in three out of the last five seasons. The team's starting line-up consists of numerous seniors, including 6-foot-7 center Alison Bales. The Terps, by contrast, have never competed in a national title game. The Terps' starting line-up has no seniors and two freshmen, including 5-foot-7 guard Kristi Toliver.

Mr. Speaker, last night's game was the stuff of legends. The more experienced Duke took immediate control of the game, and built a 13-point lead with less than 15 minutes left in the game. Rather than succumb to frustration, the Terps patiently chipped away at the lead, with tough baskets from forward Laura Harper and freshman Marissa Coleman. With just seconds left in regulation, the Terps managed to cut the deficit to three points, setting the stage for the game's electrifying conclusion.

Mr. Speaker, with 6.1 seconds left, Toliver dribbled around two screens and then nailed an audacious 3-pointer right over Bales. The shot capped the Terps' 13-point comeback and sent the game into overtime, where the team sealed its stunning 78-75 victory with confident free throws from Kristi Toliver and Marissa Coleman.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations to each of the members of the Terps Women's Basketball Team for their outstanding performance last night and all season long. The members of the 2005-2006 Maryland Terps championship team are: Charmaine Carr, Marissa Coleman, Shay Doron, Kalika France, Laura Harper, Crystal Langhorne, Christie Marrone, Ashleigh Newman, Aurelie Noirez, Jade Perry, Angel Ross, Kristi Toliver, and Sa'de Wiley-Gatewood.

The fact that 5 players on the team averaged more than 10 points per game this season exemplifies the Terps' selfless and team-oriented approach to the game. Last night's performance exemplifies their ability to play with grace under pressure.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my congratulations to Coach Brenda Frese who, in only her fourth season as head coach, guided this splendid team to last night's remarkable victory. I also want to extend my congratulations to Assistant Coaches Jeff Walz, Erica Floyd, and Joanna Bernabei, as well as to Director of Basketball Operations, Mark Pearson.

Finally Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not put other collegiate sports teams on notice for the future: Fear the turtle!

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF REVEREND RALPH EMERSON LEACH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Reverend Ralph Emerson Leach, devoted husband, father, grandfather, United States Veteran, prolific journalist, spiritual leader, social activist, and friend and mentor to countless people, across the southwest and far beyond.

Reverend Leach was born and raised in Massachusetts. He attended the University of Texas School of Journalism until WWII interrupted his studies. In 1943, he joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in the Yunnan Province of China. After 3 years of decorated service, he was honorably discharged. In 1947, Reverend Leach and his wife, Gloria, were married. He began his editorial and reporting career, working at a series of newspapers throughout Texas and Arkansas. As News Editor of the Arkansas Gazette in the mid-50s, Reverend Leach was a frontrunner in exposing the injustice of racism by working on a series of articles that highlighted the historic Central High School integration crisis. The Gazette was later awarded the Pulitzer Prize for its coverage of this benchmark event in the civil rights movement.

Personally moved by the racial intolerance that he witnessed overseas and at home, Reverend Leach ended his career in journalism and began building a spiritual ministry that existed to raise the poor and struggling out of the shadows of poverty and hopelessness, and to free the soul of our Nation from the chains of human injustice. He graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest, was ordained into the Episcopal ministry, and became firmly entrenched in the civil rights movement. Reverend Leach's work led him to collaborate with

our Nation's foremost heroes in the civil rights crusade, including the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. Reverend Leach also served as the Manpower Director with Total Action Against Poverty (TAP). Even in his later years, Reverend Leach's dedication as a grassroots activist was as energized and focused as ever, and is reflected in his contribution and leadership within grassroots political campaigns, including my own.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, remembrance and gratitude to Reverend Ralph Emerson Leach, whose life was defined by his steadfast commitment to his family and by his limitless passion to make his community, our Nation and our world, a better place. I extend my deepest condolences to his daughters and their spouses: Laura and Don, Rebecca and William, Naomi and Paul; to his son and his fiancée, Stephen and Sally; to his grandchildren, extended family members and many friends. His kindness, integrity, gentle guidance and service to others has made a difference in my life and in the lives of countless families and individuals, and he will be remembered always.

INTRODUCTION OF ROYALTY-IN-KIND FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act. This bill is intended to make it possible for the Department of the Interior to implement a provision in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that was intended to provide a new way to assist low-income people to heat or cool their homes.

For several years before 2005, the Department of the Interior had authority to develop "royalty-in-kind" arrangements under which companies developing federal oil could meet their required royalty payments by providing oil instead of cash. The Energy Policy Act expanded this provision to apply to natural-gas developers as well, and also added new authority for Interior to grant a preference to low-income consumers when disposing of natural gas it obtained under such an arrangement.

While this Energy Policy Act provision does not specifically reference the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), its implementation could benefit that program.

LIHEAP is intended to help low-income Americans pay for their heating and cooling costs. However, at current funding levels this critically important program serves less than 15 percent of those who qualify for it. Implementing the Energy Policy Act provision to grant a preference to low-income consumers would supplement LIHEAP funding and expand the amount of energy assistance available to the poor.

Last September, I joined my colleagues from Colorado in writing a letter to Interior Secretary Gail Norton asking her to consider beginning implementation of the new provision through a pilot program in Colorado. In the letter, we emphasized the importance of helping this country's most vulnerable citizens, who

are increasingly hard hit by rising energy costs.

In a reply to my office, the Interior Department responded that the Interior Department's lawyers had reviewed the Energy Policy Act provision and had concluded that as it now stands it could not be implemented because the current law "does not provide the Department with the authority or discretion to receive less than fair market value for the royalty gas or oil."

My bill is intended to correct the legal deficiencies in the provision as enacted to make it possible for the Interior Department to implement the program. In developing the legislation, my staff has reviewed the Interior Department's legal opinion and has consulted with the Interior Department's lawyers and with other legal experts. Based on that review, I think enactment of my bill will resolve the legal problems cited by the Interior Department and will enable the program to go forward.

Spring may be upon us, but hot summer temperatures and another winter are just months away. I believe the Energy Policy Act provision to help low-income consumers is an innovative tool that must be allowed to work. The Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act would make this possible. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and to support energy assistance for this nation's most vulnerable residents.

Here is a brief outline of the bill:

Section One—provides a short title ("Royalty-in-Kind for Energy Assistance Improvement Act of 2006").

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the importance of LIHEAP and the intent of the relevant provisions of law regarding payment of royalties-in-kind and the conclusion of the Interior Department that the provision of the 2005 Energy Policy Act intended to allow use of royalties-in-kind to benefit low-income consumers cannot be implemented. This section also states the bill's purpose, which is to amend that part of the Energy Policy Act in order to make it possible for it to be implemented in order to assist low-income people to meet their energy needs.

Section Three—amends the relevant provision (Section 342(j)) of the Energy Policy Act by—

(1) adding explicit authority for the Interior Department to sell royalty-in-kind oil or gas for as little as half its fair market value in implementing that part of the Energy Policy Act under an agreement that the purchaser will be required to provide an appropriate amount of resources to a Federal low-income energy assistance program;

(2) clarifying that such a sale at a discounted price will be deemed to comply with the Anti-deficiency Act; and

(3) authorizing the Interior Department to issue rules and enter into agreements that are considered appropriate in order to implement that part of the Energy Policy Act.

These changes are specifically designed to correct the legal deficiencies that the Interior Department has determined currently make it impossible for it to implement this part of the Energy Policy Act.

McKEESPORT TIGERS WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2006

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the McKeesport Tigers on their 2005 PIAA Class AAAA state football championship.

The Tigers' 49–10 victory over the Bethlehem Liberty Hurricanes was one of the most outstanding performances ever in a state title game. I want my colleagues to know just how proud I am of their talent, hard work, and determination. They are an outstanding example of the many admirable qualities possessed by the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District.

McKeesport's second-ever state title capped off one of the greatest and most memorable postseason runs in Western Pennsylvania sports history. Their victory was indeed a team effort under the superb direction of coach George Smith, but there were several individuals who rose to the challenge and pulled through in the crunch. Quarterback Dan Kopolovich ran for three touchdowns and passed for a fourth. His teammate, running back Warren Waite, was able to gain over 100 yards and added yet another score. On the Tigers' defensive team, Travis McBride earned great distinction by returning an interception for a score. These athletes' outstanding performances, ably supported by those of their teammates, resulted in one of the largest margins of victory in the state title game's history.

I applaud the Tigers for their impressive display of teamwork and perseverance. They have truly demonstrated the quintessential characteristics of Western Pennsylvanians in their run to the championship.

I want to extend my warmest congratulations to the Tigers, Coach Smith, and the entire McKeesport School District and wish them all the best of luck in the future and hope for much continued success.

COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965:

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 609, the College Access and Opportunity Act. H.R. 609 reauthorizes the Higher Education Act (HEA), including all discretionary programs under the HEA, such as Federal student financial aid programs, teacher training programs, and programs that provide aid to institutions of higher education serving minority populations. Reauthorizing the HEA provided the House with an excellent opportunity to invest in our Nation's future by making college more accessible and affordable. Unfortunately, H.R. 609 does not provide the investment in higher education